



AG UPDATE

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ONIONS

Colorado growers now expect to produce 3.02 million cwt of summer storage onions this year, down 4 percent from the 3.16 million cwt produced in 2007. This year's harvested area of 7,200 acres is down 7 percent from 7,700 acres harvested last year. The 2008 crop average yield per acre is forecast at 420 cwt, down 10 cwt from last year's crop.

Summer storage onion production for the **United States** is forecast at 51.5 million hundredweight (cwt), down 10 percent from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 99,620 acres, down 8 percent from 2007. The yield, at 517 cwt per acre, is down 15 cwt from last year. Planting of California's storage onion crop was on schedule.

Onions for Fresh Market 2007-2008 Crops

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	for 2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
Spring.....	31,000	29,000	330	379	10,230	11,000
Summer:						
Non-Storage	20,700	19,600	548	529	11,347	10,378
Storage						
CA 1/.....	30,500	30,000	425	430	12,975	12,900
CO	7,700	7,200	410	420	3,157	3,024
ID	9,100	8,500	750	690	6,825	5,865
MI.....	2,500	2,500	260	260	650	650
NY.....	12,300	10,800	360	350	4,428	3,780
OR-Malheur	12,000	10,600	780	710	9,360	7,526
OR-Other.....	8,800	8,800	620	620	5,456	5,456
WA.....	21,000	19,000	610	600	12,810	11,400
WI.....	1,800	840	370	340	666	286
Oth Sts 2/.....	2,080	1,380	470	448	978	618
Total	107,780	99,620	532	517	57,305	51,505
Summer	128,480	119,220	534	519	68,652	61,883
U.S.	159,480	148,220	495	492	78,882	72,883

1/ Primarily for dehydrated and other processing.

2/ OH and UT.

**CHICKENS AND EGGS
AUGUST 2008**

Colorado laying flocks produced 95 million eggs during August 2008 up 2 percent from the previous month of 93 million eggs but down 8 million from August 2007. The average number of layers for the month, at 3.8 million, was 1

percent below the 3.82 million the previous month but was 2 percent above the 3.72 million layers for August 2007. The rate of lay for August 2008, at 2,505 eggs per 100 layers, was 3 percent above the 2,436 for the previous month and 7 percent above the 2,338 in August a year earlier.

United States egg production totaled 7.55 billion during August 2008, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.45 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 65 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2008 averaged 335 million, down 2 percent from last year. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,252 eggs, up 1 percent from August 2007.

All layers in the United States on September 1, 2008 totaled 335 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 335 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.73 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2008, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, this is up 2 percent from September 1, 2007.

**CROP PRODUCTION
OCTOBER 1, 2008**

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado's **corn** for grain production is forecast at 156.8 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year's crop of 150.52 million bushels but down 8 percent from the September 1 forecast. Average yield is now forecast at 140.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from last year and down 5.0 bushels from last month. Areas planted and intended for grain were also revised down 50,000 acres from September 1 to 1.25 million and 1.12 million acres, respectively, based on Farm Service Agency (FSA) administrative information. **Sorghum** for grain production for 2008 is expected to total 4.86 million bushels, unchanged from the September 1 forecast but 12 percent below last year's crop. Average yield, at 27.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from the September 1 forecast but 10 bushels below last year's results. The area expected to be harvested for grain is also unchanged from the September forecast at 180,000 acres. **Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 772,000 tons, equal to September's crop and up 1 percent from the previous year. Yields are expected to average 27.0 tons per acre compared with 26.2 tons per acre last year. The area for harvest is expected to total 28,600 acres, down from 29,200 acres harvested last year. The initial forecast of **all**

sunflower production was placed at 176.3 million pounds, up 30 percent from the 2007 crop of 135.8 million pounds. The average expected yield of 990 pounds per acre is 212 pounds below last year. Estimated harvested acreage, at 178,000 acres, is up 58 percent from 113,000 acres harvested a year ago and up 20,000 acres from the June 1 forecast based on administrative information. **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 2.91 million tons, up 2 percent from last year. **All other hay** production is forecast at 1.13 million tons, down 21 percent from last year's production. Expected **dry bean** production, at 792,000 hundredweight, is up 8 percent from last year. The average expected yield of 1,800 pounds per acre is 200 pounds above the 2007 yield. Area planted was reduced 7,000 acres from the June 1 forecast to 48,000 acres based on administrative information and area for harvest is now expected to total 44,000 acres, 2,000 acres below last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 12.2 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month but 7 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 154.0 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from September and 2.9 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, behind 2004, and production will be the second largest, behind last year. Yield forecasts are lower than last month across the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys and eastern Corn Belt as dry conditions during September continued to adversely affect the late developing corn crop. Forecasted yields also decreased in parts of the Delta and Missouri where excessive moisture and high winds from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike stressed the crop. Yield prospects improved in the central Corn Belt, central Great Plains, and upper Mississippi Valley as September rains brought much needed moisture to the region.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.98 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the September forecast and up 11 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.5 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from last month and down 2.2 bushels from 2007. Compared with last month, yields are forecast lower or unchanged across the Corn Belt and Great Plains, with the exception of Illinois and Kansas. Yields increased or are unchanged from the September 1 forecast across the Southeast, the lower Mississippi Valley, and the mid-Atlantic States. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 75.5 million acres, up 3 percent from last month and up 18 percent from 2007.

Sorghum production is forecast at 464 million bushels, up 9 percent from last month but down 8 percent from last year. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States. Planted area was updated to 8.13 million acres, up 12 percent from the previous forecast and up 5 percent from 2007. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 7.24 million acres, up 13 percent from last month and up 6 percent from last year. Based on October 1

conditions, yield is forecast at 64.1 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from September and down 10.1 bushels from last year.

The first **sunflower** production forecast for 2008 is 3.48 billion pounds, up 21 percent from 2007 and up 63 percent from 2006. Area planted, at 2.53 million acres, is up 17 percent from the June estimate and up 22 percent from last year. Sunflower growers expect to harvest 2.41 million acres, up 17 percent from June and up 20 percent from the 2007 acreage. The October yield forecast, at 1,449 pounds, is 13 pounds higher than last year. As of October 1, higher yields are expected in four of the seven major sunflower-producing States, with only Colorado, Kansas, and Texas farmers expecting lower yields compared with last year. In North Dakota, the largest sunflower-producing State, the yield is forecast at 1,444 pounds per acre, up 30 pounds from the 2007 yield.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures production of dry hay is forecast at 71.4 million tons, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 2 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.44 tons per acre, up 0.03 ton from August and up 0.09 ton from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 20.8 million acres, unchanged from August but down 4 percent from the previous year's acreage. **Other Hay** production is forecast at 79.1 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 2 percent from 2007. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.99 tons per acre, up 0.05 ton from the August forecast and up 0.04 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 39.7 million acres, is unchanged from August but down 1 percent from the previous year.

United States **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 25.4 million cwt for 2008, up 5 percent from the previous estimate and up slightly from 2007. Planted area is forecast at 1.50 million acres, up 7 percent from the August forecast but down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 1.43 million acres, 6 percent above the last forecast but 3 percent below the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,772 pounds per acre, a decrease of 14 pounds from August's forecast but 56 pounds above the 2007 yield. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record for the U.S.

Production of **sugarbeets** in 2008 is forecast at 28.0 million tons, 7 percent above the September forecast but 12 percent below 2007's production of 31.9 million tons. Growers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres, 4,600 acres below the September forecast and the lowest acreage since 1982. The yield is forecast at 26.5 tons per acre, up 1.8 tons from September and up 0.9 ton from the previous year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. Yields were at or above last year's level in all States except in the Pacific Northwest. As of September 28, harvest was 7 percent complete in the four major producing States, 3 points behind normal.

Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2007-2008

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
Colorado:									
All Corn <u>1/</u>	1,200	1,250	1,060	1,120	Bu.	142.0	140.0	150,520	156,800
All Sorghum <u>1/</u>	220	230	150	180	Bu.	37.0	27.0	5,550	4,860
All Wheat	2,520	2,190	2,369	1,936	Bu.	40.3	30.8	95,520	59,700
Winter Wheat	2,500	2,150	2,350	1,900	Bu.	40.0	30.0	94,000	57,000
Spring Wheat.....	20.0	40.0	19.0	36.0	Bu.	80.0	75.0	1,520	2,700
Oats	75	45	10	7	Bu.	80.0	70.0	800	490
Barley	60	80	58	72	Bu.	125.0	120.0	7,250	8,640
Proso Millet.....	270	330	260.0	4/	Bu.	33.0	4/	8,580	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	1,550	1,580	Tons	2.83	2.55	4,385	4,030
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	800	830	Tons	3.70	3.50	2,960	2,905
Other Hay .....	...	...	750	750	Tons	1.90	1.50	1,425	1,125
Sugarbeets	32.0	34.8	29.2	28.6	Tons	26.2	27.0	765	772
Dry edible beans.....	48.0	48.0	46.0	44.0	Cwt.	1,600	1,800	736	792
Sunflowers, All.....	119.0	190.0	113.0	178.0	Lbs.	1,202	990	135,800	176,300
Sunflowers, Oil	105.0	165.0	100.0	155.0	Lbs.	1,150	4/	115,000	4/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	14.0	25.0	13.0	23.0	Lbs.	1,600	4/	20,800	4/
All potatoes	62.2	61.4	61.9	60.7	Cwt.	355	5/	21,926	5/
Summer potatoes.....	3.0	4.4	2.7	4.0	Cwt.	350	360	945	1,440
Fall potatoes	59.2	57.0	59.1	56.7	Cwt.	355	5/	20,981	5/
Apples .....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	13,000	15,000
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	13.0	15.0
Pears.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1.7	1.5
United States:									
All Corn <u>1/</u>	93,600	86,909	86,542	79,197	Bu.	151.1	154.0	13,073,893	12,199,908
All Sorghum <u>1/</u>	7,718	8,128	6,805	7,236	Bu.	74.2	64.1	504,993	464,186
All Wheat <u>2/</u>	60,433	63,047	51,011	55,685	Bu.	40.5	44.9	2,066,722	2,499,524
Winter Wheat	44,987	46,181	35,952	39,614	Bu.	42.2	47.2	1,515,989	1,867,903
Spring Wheat.....	13,297	14,135	12,947	13,487	Bu.	37.0	40.5	479,047	546,744
Oats	3,760	3,217	1,505	1,395	Bu.	60.9	63.5	91,599	88,635
Barley	4,020	4,234	3,508	3,767	Bu.	60.4	63.6	211,825	239,498
Rye	1,376	1,260	289	269	Bu.	27.4	29.7	7,914	7,979
Proso Millet.....	570	605	515	4/	Bu.	32.3	4/	16,615	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	61,625	60,439	Tons	2.44	2.49	150,304	150,500
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	21,670	20,778	Tons	3.35	3.44	72,575	71,424
Other Hay .....	...	...	39,955	39,661	Tons	1.95	1.99	77,729	79,076
Sugarbeets	1,268.8	1,110.1	1,246.8	1,053.1	Tons	25.6	26.5	31,912	27,958
Dry edible beans.....	1,526.9	1,502.9	1,478.7	1,434.6	Cwt.	1,716	1,772	25,371	25,423
Sunflowers, All.....	2,068.0	2,527.0	2,009.5	2,405.0	Lbs.	1,436	1,449	2,886,065	3,484,740
Sunflowers, Oil	1,764.0	2,169.0	1,717.0	2,064.0	Lbs.	1,454	4/	2,495,920	4/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	304.0	358.0	292.5	341.0	Lbs.	1,339	4/	390,145	4/
All potatoes <u>3/</u>	1,148.8	1,057.8	1,129.7	1,041.1	Cwt.	396	5/	446,807	5/
Summer potatoes.....	53.7	48.5	51.2	46.2	Cwt.	332	324	16,997	14,946
Fall potatoes	1,010.8	929.1	996.8	916.2	Cwt.	409	5/	407,517	5/
Soybeans	64,736	76,983	64,141	75,479	Bu.	41.7	39.5	2,675,822	2,983,023
Apples .....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,113,900	9,242,200
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,128.7	1,093.9
Pears.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	873.0	821.8

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops. 4/ Jan. 2009.
5/ November 10, 2008.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Oct. 17 - Cattle on Feed
- Oct. 21 - Chickens and Eggs
- Oct. 22 - Cold Storage
- Oct. 24 - Livestock Slaughter
- Oct. 31 - Agricultural Prices
- Nov. 10 - Crop Production
- Nov. 17 - Milk Production
- Nov. 21 - Cattle On Feed
- Nov. 21 - Livestock Slaughter

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